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## **Federal court upholds Republican initiative to limit out-of-state trash**

**LANSING** – Michigan has moved one step closer to having the out-of-state waste restrictions residents have been calling for, thanks to a ruling issued Friday in federal court upholding state law, announced Sen. Patty Birkholz, R-Saugatuck Township.

U.S. District Court Judge Avern Cohn ruled Michigan's new restrictions on out-of-state waste are constitutional. They were implemented Nov. 1.

"This ruling is wonderful news for Michigan's residents and environment," Birkholz said. "I am pleased that we can now continue our efforts to keep our state healthy and free from dangerous materials."

The package of new laws imposes restrictions on the importation of Canadian and out-of-state waste, sets a two-year moratorium on new landfills and gives broader authority to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality to enforce these tougher garbage standards.

Under the new rules, all Canadian and out-of-state waste is required to meet the same stringent standards Michigan has for its own waste. Landfills are required to refuse any out-of-state waste that does not meet the tough standards.

The new laws represent a bi-partisan effort to limit the importation of Canadian and out-of-state waste. Canadian and out-of-state-waste accounts for approximately 25 percent of all trash entering Michigan's landfills.

"It's great that we now have legal authority to protect our state from trash that doesn't meet our standards," Birkholz said. "This is an important step in making Michigan a better and safer place to live."

The National Solid Wastes Management Association sued to block the new laws in April on the grounds that only Congress, not the state of Michigan, has the power to regulate interstate commerce, including trash.

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